

Identification and comparison of candidate products

As shoppers begin to understand what they want and what is available they typically compile a list of candidates that will be considered more carefully. The present inventive agents supports the construction and maintenance of such lists and
5 facilitates the comparison of candidates within the list according to various criteria.

Negotiation of offers

The present shopping agent is not restricted to providing the shopper with information. It is possible to negotiate prices and service options with retailers.

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Product Selection, Purchase and Product support

The present invention facilitates the transaction itself and can be used as a channel through which product service can be delivered.

15 While various embodiments have been described above, it should be understood that they have been presented by way of example only, and not limitation. Thus, the breadth and scope of a preferred embodiment should not be limited by any of the above described exemplary embodiments, but should be defined only in accordance with the following claims and their equivalents.

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CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A method for creating an information summary, comprising the steps of:
 - 2 (a) obtaining one or more items of interest;
 - 3 (b) determining the physical location of the user;
 - 4 (c) creating a query based on the items of interest and the physical location of
 - 5 the user;
 - 6 (d) querying a network of information utilizing the query; and
 - 7 (e) displaying information associated with the items of interest and their
 - 8 locations relative to the physical location of the user.

- 1 2. A method for creating an information summary as recited in claim 1,
2 including the step of parsing the terms based on predefined criteria to create
3 the query.
- 1 3. A method for creating an information summary as recited in claim 1,
2 including the step of providing constants that are utilized by the system for
3 dynamically configuring the system based on current user inputs.
- 1 4. A method for creating an information summary as recited in claim 1,
2 including the step of ranking the results based on relevance to meeting
3 criteria.
- 1 5. A method for creating an information summary as recited in claim 1,
2 including the step of utilizing proximity to a meeting date as a filtering
3 device for the information summary.
- 1 6. A method for creating an information summary as recited in claim 1,
2 including the step of pattern recognition to enhance the location of pertinent
3 information.
- 1 7. A method for creating an information summary as recited in claim 1,
2 including support for querying the Internet to obtain pertinent information.
- 1 8. A method for creating an information summary as recited in claim 1,
2 including optimizing the query for a particular search engine.

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1 9. A method for creating an information summary as recited in claim 1,
2 including the step of responding to updates of the meeting information to
3 obtain additional summary information pertinent to the updates.

1 10. An apparatus that creates an information summary, comprising;
2 (a) a processor;
3 (b) a memory that stores information under the control of the processor;
4 (f) logic that obtains one or more items of interest;
5 (g) logic that determines the physical location of the user;
6 (h) logic that creates a query based on the items of interest and the physical
7 location of the user;
8 (i) logic that queries a network of information utilizing the query; and
9 (j) logic that displays information associated with the items of interest and their
10 locations relative to the physical location of the user.

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- 1 11. A computer program embodied on a computer-readable medium that creates
2 an information summary, comprising:
3 (a) a code segment that logic that obtains one or more items of interest;
4 (b) a code segment that determines the physical location of the user;
5 (c) a code segment that creates a query based on the items of interest and the
6 physical location of the user;
7 (d) a code segment that queries a network of information utilizing the query; and
8 (e) a code segment that displays information associated with the items of interest
9 and their locations relative to the physical location of the user.
- 1 12. A computer program embodied on a computer-readable medium that creates
2 an information summary as recited in claim 11, including logic that parses
3 the terms based on predefined criteria to create the query.
- 1 13. A computer program embodied on a computer-readable medium that creates
2 an information summary as recited in claim 11, including logic that modifies
3 constants that are utilized by the system for dynamically configuring the
4 system based on current user inputs.
- 1 14. A computer program embodied on a computer-readable medium that creates
2 an information summary as recited in claim 11, including logic that ranks the
3 results based on relevance to meeting criteria.
- 1 15. A computer program embodied on a computer-readable medium that creates
2 an information summary as recited in claim 11, including logic that utilizes
3 proximity to a meeting date as a filtering device for the information
4 summary.

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- 1 16. A computer program embodied on a computer-readable medium that creates
2 an information summary as recited in claim 11, including logic that
3 recognizes patterns to enhance the location of pertinent information.
- 1 17. A computer program embodied on a computer-readable medium that creates
2 an information summary as recited in claim 11, including logic that queries
3 the Internet to obtain pertinent information.
- 1 18. A computer program embodied on a computer-readable medium that creates
2 an information summary as recited in claim 11, including logic that
3 optimizes the query for a particular search engine.
- 1 19. A computer program embodied on a computer-readable medium that creates
2 an information summary as recited in claim 11, including logic that responds
3 to updates of the meeting information to obtain additional summary
4 information pertinent to the updates.

FOOTNOTES